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RUDY DONOR LINKED TO RUSSIAN MOB

BYLINE: Tom Topousis

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A wealthy commodities trader who gave thousands of dollars to Mayor Giuliani's mayoral campaigns and landed a post on the city's Economic Development Corp. was linked yesterday to alleged Russian mobsters.

Semyon (Sam) Kislin, 64, has served on the EDC's board of directors since the mayor's first term. During the 1993 and 1997 campaigns, Kislin, his relatives and companies donated \$46,250 to the mayor and his political allies.

Kislin's alleged ties to Russian mobsters in Brooklyn and in the former Soviet republics was reported yesterday by the non-partisan Center for Public Integrity in Washington, D.C.

Citing documents from the FBI and Interpol, the center reported that a Kislin company, Trans Commodities in Manhattan, laundered millions of dollars from Russia to New York and sponsored a visa for an alleged contract killer.

In an interview with the center, Kislin brushed off the allegations. He said he has been investigated by the FBI but never charged with a crime.

A 1994 FBI report obtained by The Associated Press said Kislin is "a member or associate" of a Brighton Beach crime group run by Vyacheslav Ivankov, the imprisoned godfather of Russian organized crime in the United States.

Asked about Kislin's appointment to the EDC, mayoral spokeswoman Sunny Mindel said, "He was appointed in 1996. These are allegations, and allegations that emerged two days ago."

Giuliani, a former federal prosecutor, said he doesn't know anything about Kislin's alleged Russian mob ties.

"I know Mr. Kislin. I know his wife. In the last 2 1/2 years, they've made no contributions to me, at least as far as my records are concerned," said Giuliani.

"I'm not aware of any of the allegations involving them. I think the report is wishful thinking on the part of the people who are trying to put it out."

Giuliani said Kislin hasn't donated to any of his other campaign funds since his 1997 re-election.

Yet a program from a May 14, 1998, Giuliani fund-raiser lists Kislin and his wife, Ludmilla, as "co-chairs." Kislin also was listed as a co-chair of Giuliani's main Senate fund-raiser last May 25, which took in \$2.1 million.

Bruce Teitelbaum, who heads the mayor's campaign committee, said the Kislins' names appeared on the invitations because "it's not an uncommon practice to use names of people who raised money in the past."

Giuliani has not been the only recipient of Kislin's largess.

In last year's Senate race, Kislin and his family gave \$8,000 to the ultimate victor, Democrat Charles Schumer, and \$1,000 to Republican Alfonse D'Amato.

City Comptroller Alan Hevesi has received \$11,000 from the Kislins since 1994.

Kislin could not be reached last night. He was reportedly vacationing in the Bahamas.

PERSON: RUDY GIULIANI (90%); CHARLES SCHUMER (55%);

ORGANIZATION: FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (91%); FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (91%); INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION

(INTERPOL) (56%);

COUNTRY: UNITED STATES (92%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (91%);

STATE: NEW YORK, USA (92%); DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, USA (79%);

CITY: NEW YORK, NY, USA (92%);

COMPANY: ASSOCIATED PRESS (55%); FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (91%); FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (91%); INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION (INTERPOL) (56%);

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